

Working together to support and
improve California's public schools

**Association of California School
Administrators (ACSA)**
*representing more than 16,000 school
administrators*

**California Association Of School
Business Officials (CASBO)**
*representing more than 4,000 school finance
and administrative managers*

**California County
Superintendents Educational
Services Association (CCSESA)**
*representing all 58 county superintendents
throughout California*

**California Federation of
Teachers (CFT-AFL-CIO)**
*representing nearly 90,000 education
employees*

**California School Boards
Association (CSBA)**
*representing nearly 1,000 K-12 school districts
and county offices of education throughout
California*

**California School Employees
Association (CSEA)**
*representing more than 230,000 classified
school employees*

California State PTA
*representing more than one million parents,
teachers, and students in California*

**California Teachers Association
(CTA)**
representing over 340,000 educators

**Service Employees International
Union (SEIU)**
*representing more than 50,000 school
employees in California*

**Legislative Consultant:
Peter Birdsall**
916.719.1315

March 23, 2009

California State Treasurer's Office
State Treasurer Bill Lockyer
Post Office Box 942809
Sacramento, CA 94209-0001

California Department of Finance
Mike Genest, Finance Director
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Treasurer Lockyer and Finance Director Genest:

On behalf of the Education Coalition of California we are writing to express our serious concerns with regard to current proposals to manipulate Proposition 98 funding in order to activate the so-called "trigger" enacted in ABX3 16. Specifically, we are strongly opposed to proposals that would further cut K-12 education programs, in order to use Federal dollars to "save" state funding and thus activate the trigger.

Without regard to the merits of the trigger or the program funding that might potentially be restored, our concern relates to the proposal by the Legislative Analyst's Office that Proposition 98 funding could be further reduced by up to \$3.6 billion. Under this scenario, federal stimulus dollars would be used to back-fill the additional cuts to K-12 education. These "savings" to the state would then be sufficient to activate the trigger in AB X3 16. We are strongly opposed to this approach, as it would impose additional deep cuts to K-12 education and would circumvent the intent of the federal stimulus funding to help protect education from such cuts.

In February, the Legislature approved, and the Governor signed into law, a budget package to impose \$2.8 billion in new, additional cuts to K-12 education. These cuts come on top of providing no cost-of-living adjustment in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Just recently, approximately 27,000 public school teachers were given layoff notices because of the recent budget cuts. Analysts expect many more thousands of other school staff, including bus drivers, custodians, and instructional aides will be laid off later this spring as the full impact of the cuts take effect.

The intent of the federal stimulus dollars was to restore services to school children and to protect as many of these jobs as possible. It would be totally inconsistent with that intent to instead use the federal stimulus dollars to justify additional cuts to K-12 education.

The federal stimulus dollars need to be allocated as soon as possible, to help schools restore programs and staff that have been lost due to the deep cuts that have already been imposed.

Sincerely,

Adonai Mack, ACSA


Dennis Meyers, CASBO

Mike Ricketts, CCSESA

Jeff Freitas, CFT



Debra Brown, CSBA



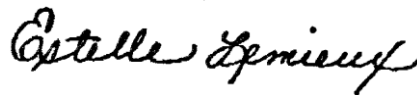
Pat Dingsdale, PTA



Michelle Castro, SEIU



Steve Henderson, CSEA



Estelle Lemieux, CTA